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December 9, 2015

Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chairman Hynes:

The Chamber is writing to express our support for the recommendations outlined in the Community Facilities Study. As the Arlington Chamber of Commerce with a mission to strengthen businesses and the economic environment for those who work, live and do business in Arlington, we especially appreciate the emphasis of the strong economic base which is paramount to the success of all aspects of the County.

The Revenues and Capital Funding Section (pages 59 – 67) paints a clear picture of the County's funding sources, illustrating our unique tax base which relies much more on the commercial sector than those of our neighboring jurisdictions. This information helps educate all members of the community on why the commercial sector is so vital to the County. Without the commercial sector thriving, the County would be unable to have the first class services for all residents, including our incredible public school system.

The Study goes on to articulate the challenges with the commercial tax base and make key recommendations to address some of those challenges (pages 85 – 89). These are challenges that the Chamber and our membership know well, and we appreciate the diligence that was done to explore, articulate and address them. The recommendations outlined (particularly #11 and #14 on page 89) also align well with the outcomes of the Business Brain Trust. We are pleased to see community consensus building around these areas.

Again, we support the recommendations outlined in the Community Facilities Study, recognizing them as good planning practices and specifically express our appreciation for the focus on the importance of the commercial sector in continuing to allow our County to prosper for the good of all who live, work and do business in Arlington.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shooshan  
Chair

Kate Roche  
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members Jay Fisette, Libby Garvey, Walter Tejada, John Vihstadt, Acting County Manager Mark Schwartz